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Abstract of the Disclosure

A telephone switching system and computer implemented method to enhance the integration of an independent voice mail system and a telephone exchange switch. The system also includes telephone sets in communication with the switch and a voice mail system with the telephone sets which include a display device and a manual switch that provide an interactive relationship between the telephone set and the user. Predetermined messages are exchanged serially between the voice mail system and the telephone exchange switch to provide enhanced functionality of the telephone switching system.